

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
USSN 09/981,743
Attorney Docket Q66747
February 14, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for conditioning the atmosphere in a vacuum chamber, said apparatus comprising:
a vacuum line including said vacuum chamber and comprising a pumping apparatus; and
isolation means enabling the disturbance caused by the pumping apparatus to the vacuum chamber to be reduced.

22. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the pumping apparatus is disposed in the immediate vicinity of the vacuum chamber.

23. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the vacuum line comprises a primary pump and at least one upstream secondary pump;
the primary pump is enclosed in an isolation enclosure.

24. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the vacuum line further comprises gas treatment means adapted for treating the extracted gas downstream from the primary pump;

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the gas treatment means are enclosed together with the primary pump in said isolation enclosure.

25. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the vacuum line further comprises gas analyzer means adapted for analyzing the gases inside the vacuum line;

the gas analyzer means are enclosed together with the primary pump and the gas treatment means in said isolation enclosure.

26. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the isolation enclosure is provided with means includes temperature monitoring and regulation apparatus for monitoring and regulation apparatus for monitoring and regulating the temperature of the contents of the isolation enclosure.

27. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the isolation enclosure is provided with means includes active vibration-compensating means for compensating the mechanical vibrations generated by the contents of the isolation enclosure.

28. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the isolation enclosure further encloses a controller, constituting signal processing means for generating a speed control signal for controlling the speed of the primary pump and/or the speed of the secondary pump as a function of signals received from gas analyzer means.

Claim 29 (new): Apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the active vibration-compensating means comprises vibration sensors associated mechanically with the isolation enclosure and vibration generators controlled so as to produce vibrations in phase opposition

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with the vibrations produced by the contents of the isolation enclosure as sensed by the vibration sensors